

Message Text

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14

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 AF-06 EUR-12 IO-11 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00

PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01

SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 OMB-01 SAI-01 SAM-01 /089 W

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P R 311219Z JAN 76

FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 9324

INFO AMEMBASSY ALGIERS

AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY DAKAR

AMCONSUL LENINGRAD

AMEMBASSY MADRID

AMEMBASSY NOUAKCHOTT

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

AMEMBASSY TUNIS

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

AMCONSUL CASABLANCA

AMCONSUL TANGIER

RUSNAAA

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CINCEUR FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, AG, MO, UR, MR, SS

SUBJECT: SOVIET MEDIA ON SAHARA DISPUTE

REF: RABAT 513

1. SUMMARY - SOVIET MEDIA FIRST BEGAN REPORTING SAHARA CONFLICT
AS PRIORITY ITEM JANUARY 29, AND JANUARY 30-31 AFTERNOON-
MORNING COVERAGE IS SLANTED TOWARD ALGERIAN VIEWPOINT AND INTRODUCES
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POLISARIO AS A MOVEMENT "WHICH, AS IS KNOWN, SUPPORTS SELF-

DETERMINATION OF THE WESTERN SAHARA." NEVERTHELESS, MOROCCAN VIEWS ARE ALSO GIVEN ALBEIT IN BRIEFER FORM.

END SUMMARY

2. JANUARY 29 EVENING NEWS VREMYA CARRIED SEVERAL MINUTES OF SYNOPSIS ON SAHARA DISPUTE, WITH MAP, AND MENTIONED ATTACKS BY MAURITANIAN AIRCRAFT. JANUARY 30 PRAVDA RAN TASS REPORTS OF BOUMEDIENNE'S MESSAGE (FROM ALGIERS) AND MOROCCAN MILITARY COMMUNIQUE AND NEWS OF LARAKI AND TARIQ AZIZ ACTIVITIES (FROM RABAT).

3. JANUARY 30 IZVESTIYA AND JANUARY 31 PRAVDA (ON CENTER OF INTERNATIONAL PAGE) RUN IDENTICAL TRIPTYCH OF TASS REPORTS (A) FROM RABAT, REPORTING INFORMATION MINISTRY COMMUNIQUE; (B) FROM ALGIERS, REPORTING APS COMMUNIQUE AND BOUTEFLIKA MESSAGE TO WALDHEIM, AND (C) FROM HANOI, REPORTING DENIAL OF SPANISH AGENCY ALLEGATION THAT VIETNAMESE UNITS ARE FIGHTING WITH POLISARIO.

4. THERE HAS BEEN NO SEPARATE COMMENTARY, BUT ALGERIAN VERSION OF CLASH RECEIVES MORE PROMINENCE, THERE IS NO MENTION OF GOM STRESS ON "INTERNATIONALIZATION" OF THIS DISPUTE (REFTEL PARA 3) AND JANUARY 30-31 RABAT ITEM INCLUDES COMMENT THAT MOROCCAN ARMED FORCES "DESTROYED SEVERAL DOZEN SOLDIERS OF THE POLISARIO FRONT, WHICH, AS IS KNOWN, SUPPORT SELF-DETERMINATION OF THE WESTERN SAHARA."

5. COMMENT - COVERAGE SLANTING CONSIDERABLY MORE TOWARD ALGERIA, AND POLISARIO SEEMS TO BE EDGING TOWARD ACKNOWLEDGMENT BY SOVIETS THAT IT IS GENUINE NATIONAL LIBERATION MOVEMENT, WHICH WOULD BE QUITE SIGNIFICANT. NEVERTHELESS, EFFORT IS STILL BEING MADE TO PRESENT MOROCCAN VIEWPOINT.
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